

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A switching system connectable to a communications network and configured to handle logical multicast data without degrading the flow of other data through the system.

5 The switching system includes a plurality of input ports, a plurality of output ports, and a plurality of queues for buffering streams of data units being routed through the system. The switching system further includes at least one meter for metering data units to ensure that the data units

10 conform to predetermined Quality of Service criteria. The logical multicast data is metered once at the meter and subsequently replicated and transmitted onto the communications network a predetermined number of times at an output port so as not to degrade the flow of other data

15 through the system.

242690